

(Mr. DEUTCH) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to welcome Rabbi Efrem Goldberg to our Nation's Capitol and thank him for delivering such an insightful opening invocation.

Rabbi Goldberg's presence here today is especially significant to me, for I regularly study under his guidance. Since entering public life, I have become all the more grateful to have him as a spiritual mentor. His insights help me serve my constituents and work to better our world in a way that honors our Jewish tradition.

As Senior Rabbi of Boca Raton Synagogue, Rabbi Goldberg leads a wonderful congregation of over 700 families and 1,200 children. This February, after an extraordinary first 5 years as Senior Rabbi, it was announced that he will continue to lead the congregation for the next decade.

His energy, vision, and wisdom touch everyone he meets, just as it did for us here this morning when he provided us with his compelling and thoughtful invocation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING SHERIFF'S OFFICER DANIEL CHARLES MURPHY

(Mr. RUNYAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sheriff's Officer Daniel Charles Murphy, a fine public servant, who passed away on Saturday, April 24, 2010.

A lifelong resident of Toms River, New Jersey, Charles graduated from Toms River East High School in 2002, and went on to attend Montclair State University. After graduating in 2006, Charles began his career in public service at the Juvenile Justice Commission for the State of New Jersey. He was then named a dedicated Sheriff's officer for the Ocean County Sheriff's Department and held this position for 3 years.

Charles' commitment to justice was honored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9503 on Sunday, March 20, 2011, where he was named the Sheriff's Officer of the Year at the VFW Citizenship Awards Ceremony.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Sheriff's Officer Daniel Charles Murphy, who dedicated his life to protecting the residents of Ocean County, New Jersey.

DEMOCRATS' ATTEMPT TO SHUT DOWN THE GOVERNMENT

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to again condemn my Democratic colleagues' attempts to shut down the Federal Government. Even with total control of spending, Democrats failed to pass a budget last year. In the meantime, we have been operating on short-term spending bills only so that they can use their ace in the hole now, the government shutdown card. This has been their game plan all along, to attempt to divide the Republican Party, back us into a corner, and to shut down the government for their own political purposes.

Mr. Speaker, our Democratic counterparts are gambling with the future of this Nation, and it's a bet I'm not willing to take. I implore my colleagues to pass a long-term bill that protects seniors, protects veterans, and funds our troops so we can move on to next year's budget and work to get it right this time.

DEFENDING OUR SENIORS

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, the majority's proposed budget for fiscal year 2012 undermines our Nation's values and priorities, attacking our middle class and in particular our Nation's seniors. Today's seniors have a median income of only \$19,000 a year. Both the Medicare and Medicaid program enables seniors to have health care coverage they would not otherwise be able to afford. The proposed budget will end the Medicare program as we know it under the disguise of reform, threatening to turn it into a voucher program that will shift more and more costs to seniors and their families.

The majority's budget also attacks seniors from another angle, by proposing deep cuts in Medicaid, which serves as our Nation's primary payer for long-term care services. Medicaid will be starved by shifting the costs of the programs from the Federal Government to the States, which in turn could force seniors out of their own homes and communities into nursing homes.

Before Medicaid and Medicare, nearly one-half of America's seniors were uninsured. Mr. Speaker, we cannot go back to the days of the past. We must be committed to strengthening Medicare and Medicaid for the well-being of our seniors and future generations.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it's been 45 days since the House passed our bill to keep the government open and cut spending for the rest of this fiscal year. Forty-five days, and Senate Democrats still have not passed a bill or come up with a plan to reduce spending.

The American people have a right to know how we got here. For the first time since 1974, last year when the Democrats ran the House, the Senate, and the White House, the Democrat majorities failed to do their jobs, failed to pass a budget, failed to pass important spending bills.

To create a better and stronger America, we need to cut spending, balance the budget, pay down the debt, and slash the deficit. The American people want, need, and deserve better than trying to run a government deep into debt. A sign in my office sums it up well. It says, "It's the spending, stupid."

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ON THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

(Mr. LUJÁN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, our Nation faces serious economic challenges that require solutions that will create jobs and strengthen our economy. At a time when our top priorities should be creating jobs for the American people, our Republican colleagues have lost focus on working families.

The House budget that Republicans introduced this morning fails to put our country on a path to prosperity. Budgets are about priorities and values, and the Republican budget makes wrong choices for hardworking families.

Let's talk the Republican dictionary: Premium support system. When they talk about a premium support system, they mean vouchers and privatization.

Pro-growth changes to the Tax Code. When they talk about pro-growth changes, in fact, when they talk about anything that's going to change the Tax Code, they mean more cuts for millionaires and billionaires.

The Republican plan ends Medicare and Medicaid as we know it. By privatizing Medicare, millions of seniors who rely on this program will be left out in the cold.

While it's critical that we tighten our belts, we have choices to make. Let's choose not to do it on the backs of our seniors.

HONORING CHATTANOOGA POLICE OFFICERS TIM CHAPIN AND LORIN JOHNSTON

(Mr. FLEISCHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor two members of the Chattanooga Police Department who were shot over the weekend, one of them fatally, while responding to a robbery in progress.

Sergeant Tim Chapin was a 26-year veteran of the Department. He lost his life in the line of duty on Saturday during a gun battle with an escaped